TIM RYAN

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

May 15, 2019

Her Royal Highness Reema bint Bandar Al Saud
The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
601 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

Your Royal Highness,

I write with great concern about the disappearance of Ayman al-Drees following his arrest in Saudi Arabia on April 4th this year. It is distressing to hear that his family and friends have not been informed of the charges against him, where he is being held nor when he will be released.

While studying at Bowling Green State University – my alma mater – al-Drees distinguished himself as a fine ambassador for Saudi Arabia and helped bring his American colleagues to a better appreciation of Islam and Middle Eastern culture. A devoted family man, he returned to Saudi Arabia to look after his mother and family after the death of his father. It is incredible that this young man who has been such a credit to himself and his country could have been arrested in this way.

I ask the Saudi Government to disclose where he is being held and allay our concerns about his current state of health. I appeal to the Saudi Government to respect Ayman al-Drees' human rights and publish the charges made against him. Provide him with access to a lawyer and the opportunity to prove his innocence in a court of law or release him without delay.

Following the shocking assassination of Jamal Khashoggi the international community is watching the Saudi Government closely, looking for signs that it is worthy of a place in the ranks of civilized nations. Today you have an opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to human rights and the rule of law. I urge you to take it and release Ayman al-Drees immediately.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Tim Ryan
Member of Congress